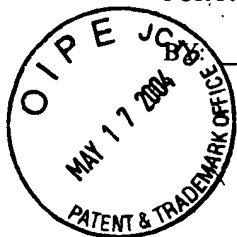


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.



Vickie Jones

DATE:

5/14/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:
Takafumi ASADA, et al.

Conf. No.: 7095

Appln. No.: 10/727,448

Filing Date: December 3, 2003

Title: HYDRODYNAMIC BEARING AND
DISK RECORDING/REPRODUCING
APPARATUS

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Group Art Unit:

To Be Assigned

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 8861-486US(P32962-01)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Simultaneously with the filing of the Response to Notice to File Missing Parts in the above-identified application, Applicant hereby amends the application as follows, without prejudice: